



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q67986

Mitsuru TAMURA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/040,333

Group Art Unit: 1743- 1764

Confirmation No.: 3288

Examiner: Not Assigned

Filed: January 9, 2002

For: **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING AGGLOMERATES**

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

Japanese Patent Abstract No. 10036447, published February 10, 1998;

European Patent No. 0 264,055, published April 10, 1988;

Soviet Union Patent No. 996856, published February 15, 1983;

Soviet Union Patent No. 1693366, published November 23, 1991;

U.S. Patent No. 4,046,005, issued September 6, 1977; and

Japanese Patent Abstract No. 63101711, published May 6, 1988.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith.

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/040,333

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date for an application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA) under §1.53(d); (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

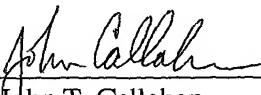
In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
U.S. Appln. No.: 10/040,333

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373
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Date: October 14, 2003

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>		<i>Complete if Known</i>	
OCT 14 2003 U.S. PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		Application Number	10/040,333
		Confirmation Number	3288
		Filing Date	January 09, 2002
		First Named Inventor	Mitsuru TAMURA
		Art Unit	1713
		Examiner Name	Not Assigned
		Attorney Docket Number	Q67986

Examiner Signature _____ Date Considered _____

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 00 30 4427

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

28-08-2003

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)		Publication date
JP 10036447	A	10-02-1998	JP	3313030 B2		12-08-2002
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JP 63101711	A	06-05-1988	NONE			